



Complete your Start At Home PADI Shark Awareness Distinctive Specialty Today!

It's Easy as 1-2-3

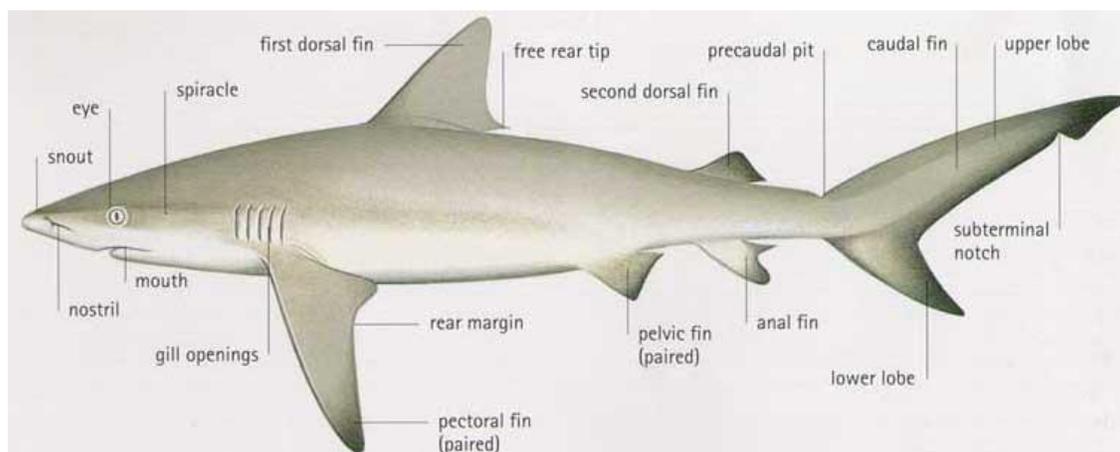
	<p>Complete the Academic Portion of the Program!</p> <p>Watch our Start At Home Shark Awareness video in the comfort of your own home. At the end of the video, complete the Knowledge Review. If you are not sure about an answer read the attached PADI Shark Awareness Distinctive Specialty Study Guide.</p> <p>-or-</p> <p>Join a Stuart Cove PADI Shark Awareness Distinctive Specialty class offered on island in Nassau, The Bahamas. You will watch the Video and listen to a presentation given by one of our PADI Shark Awareness Distinctive Specialty Instructors and completed a Knowledge Review.</p>
	<p>Plan Your Open Water Dives!</p> <p>To complete the Open Water portion of this specialty course you must complete the Shark Adventure dives at Stuart Cove's Dive Bahamas in sunny Nassau.</p>
	<p>Complete your Open Water Dives</p> <p>Upon completion of your Shark Adventure Dives with one of our Shark Awareness instructors, you will have completed all of the requirements of the PADI Shark Awareness Distinctive Specialty. In recognition of this, you will receive a Shark Awareness patch and recognition certificate. Your instructor will certify you online and arrange for your PADI Shark Awareness certification card to be delivered to your home!</p>

PADI Shark Awareness Distinctive Specialty Study Guide

After viewing this video, this study guide aims to assist you with knowledge development for your Stuart Cove's PADI Shark Awareness Distinctive Specialty Course. Please reference this study guide before completing the attached Knowledge Review.

The PADI Shark Awareness Distinctive Specialty Course allows you to encounter these magnificent animals in their natural habitat up close and personal. This experience will dispel any preconceived myths you may have about sharks. Nassau is known for not only being the underwater movie capital of the world but also for being the shark capital of the world. During the dives you will experience one of the most rewarding and thrilling times of your life. All your fears about sharks will be replaced with an unsurpassed appreciation for these lords of the deep.

Researchers have determined that sharks have been on this planet for more than 400 million years with most modern sharks having appeared around 100 million years ago. There are many different types of sharks. The most common way we can identify sharks is by shape, size and teeth. We usually think of sharks as having streamlined, torpedo shaped body with rigid dorsal and pectoral fins. Most sharks do have this form and the sharks you will see on our Shark Adventure are this 'typical' shark shape. Sharks range in size from the Dwarf Lantern shark around 7cm/2.76inches to the largest Whale shark 12m/40feet, there are over 400 species! In the Bahamas the most common species of shark encountered are Nurse, Bull, Lemon, Caribbean reef, Tiger and Hammerhead sharks. Identifying a shark has a lot to do with shape and internal structures. Take a look at this anatomical diagram of a typical shark.



The most common species you will encounter on the Shark Adventure dives is the Caribbean Reef Shark and Nurse shark. Identifying the sex of a shark is easy. The males have obvious claspers (finger like appendages) which are located on the ventral surface between the pelvic fins. Sharks are highly complex predators with extremely developed senses. As well as heightened human senses, they are also able to sense electrical currents and pressure changes. Electrical impulses are detected by unique receptors called the Ampullae of Lorenzini'. These are tiny pores on the head, concentrated around the snout and can sense faint electrical fields. Pressure changes are detected using the lateral line, a row of small pores below the skin, which lead into a fluid-filled canal system running along either side of the shark's body connected to sensory cells called 'neuromasts'.

Shark populations have been dramatically affected by man and specifically by overfishing. This is due to several reproductive traits dissimilar to other fish. Sharks have slow growth cycles and will not reach sexual maturity for 10- 15 years. Sharks tend to form groups based on their age, sex and/or maturity, for instance, older females may group together. These strong breeders may then be removed suddenly as a group, creating serious consequences for the population. Sharks also have long gestations (pregnancies) with most species only producing between 1-3 pups. This combined with them breeding only every 2-3 years means that shark populations are unable to recover from overfishing.

Preconceived fears have led to unwarranted destruction in the shark population by senseless hunting and overfishing. Overfishing is the main cause of depleting shark populations, and has caused many shark species to be listed on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Removing these predators from ecosystems has detrimental effects. Long lines and commercial fishing nets have contributed to millions of shark deaths a year as bycatch. Shark finning is well known in the media, but is still an issue. Most consumers are unaware that products contain shark as products are mislabeled or listed under a different name e.g. flake. On a positive note, a live shark is becoming more valuable than a dead shark because of ecotourism, the viewing or diving with sharks. The popularity of shark diving in Nassau, The Bahamas, enabled legislation to be passed in 2011 banning the commercial fishing of sharks.

To safely dive with sharks we must have an understanding of their behavior. It is easy to read behavior by looking at body posturing. For example, arching of the back, the pointing downward of pectoral fins and increasing speed indicates aggressive or hunting behavior of a shark. Flattened pectoral fins, a straight body and moderate speed indicate a placid shark. During your PADI Shark Awareness Distinctive Specialty Course you will participate in two open water training dives. The first dive is a 'normal' fun dive at one of our shark sites where no bait will be in the water. You will witness the sharks in a very relaxed state swimming along the wall, over reefs or even a wreck. The second dive is the shark feed where a trained shark feeder will feed the sharks, bringing them close to you while you sit and observe. During the dives, it is important that you follow these recommendations:

- Listen carefully to the dive briefing and respect the advice of the instructor.
- Add some extra weight to your weight system before the feeding dive. This helps maintain position and prevents unnecessary movement and floating up.
- Enter the water only when told to do so and move slowly to the dive site, avoiding sculling.
- During the feeding dive, form a circle around the shark feeder as guided by the layout of the Shark Arena or Wreck. Dive staff will help you with positioning.
- Keep your hands tucked in and keep hand movement to a minimum. Clear masks or recover regulators with slow minimal hand movement and do not pass cameras between you and your buddy.
- If you lose your balance let yourself fall without moving your arms and hands. An assistant will come and help you upright again.
- Remain calm, relax and enjoy the dive.
- If you want to leave the dive early, signal to the dive staff, then move backwards away from the feed and return to the boat. Do not swim over the area where the shark feeder is handling bait.
- At the end of the dive, make your way directly to the ascent line and avoid sculling or waving your hands.
- When exiting onto the boat do not remove fins until it is your turn to climb up the ladder. Only remove fins once holding the ladder.
- **DO NOT TRY TO TOUCH OR FEED THE SHARKS.**

We look forward to seeing at Stuart Cove's Dive Bahamas for your Shark Adventure Dives!

Shark Awareness Distinctive Specialty

Knowledge Review

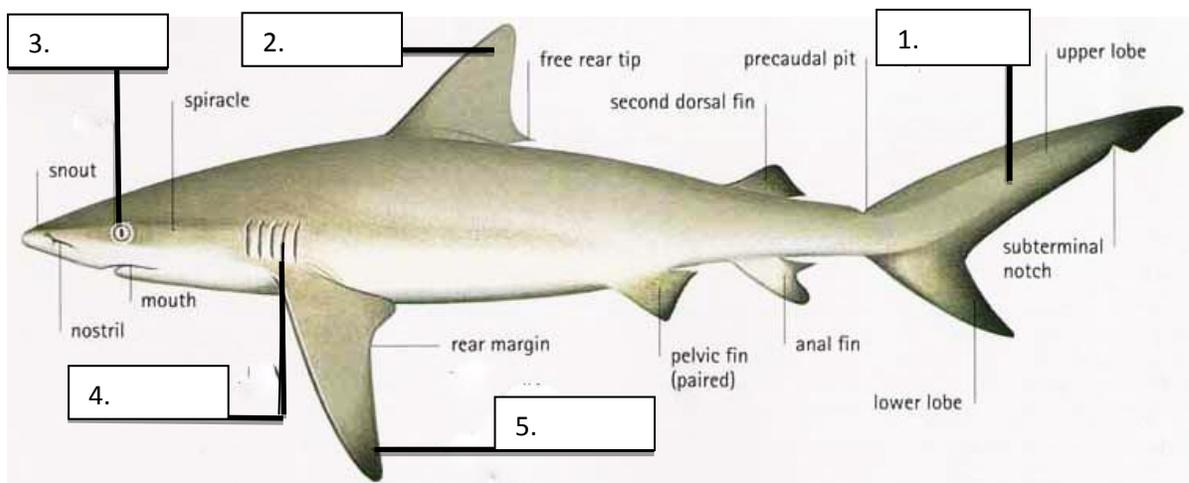
Answer the following questions.

Your Instructor will review the answers with you.

1. **The most common way we can identify sharks is by:**

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

2. **Fill in the missing gaps on the shark diagram.**



3. **Male Sharks have _____ which are located on the ventral surface between the pelvic fins.**

4. **Give 3 life history traits that make shark species vulnerable to overfishing:**

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

5. **Name the tiny pores on the head, concentrated around the snout that can sense faint electrical fields?**

6. Which of the following is having the most detrimental effect on shark populations (check one).

- a) Overfishing b) Pollution c) Overdevelopment

7. Which of the following sharks can be found in the Bahamas? (Check all that apply).

- a) Nurse Shark
b) Great White Shark
c) Caribbean Reef Shark
d) Tiger Shark
e) Basking Shark
f) Hammer Head Shark

8. Ecotourism has made a shark more valuable alive than dead (True/False?)

9. What year was commercial fishing of sharks banned in the Bahamas?

- a) 1978 b)2011 c) 1985 d)2002

10. Arching of the back, posturing or pointing down the pectoral fins and increasing speed are all signals of aggression or hunting behavior (True/False?).

11. Sharks are able to detect changes in pressure through:

- a) Sight b) Taste c) Lateral Line d) Smell

12. Give 3 recommendations to follow during your Shark Adventure Dive.

- a) _____
b) _____
c) _____

Student Statement: I've completed this Knowledge Review to the best of my ability and any questions I answered incorrectly or incompletely I've had explained to me, and I understood what I missed.

Name _____ Date _____